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.O. 12065: N/A
'AGS: SOPN, UR
UBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 13, 1981
OR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT
'XCERPTS, FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 13, 1981.
'POKESMAN WAS ALAN ROMBERG.
. ON THE BUTTER SALES. THE WASHINGTON POST HAD A HARD-
'ITTING EDITORIAL ON THESE BUTTER SALES. AGAIN, DOES THE
'TATE DEPARTMENT CONCUR WITH THE POLICY OF SELLING TO NEW
'EALAND AND THEN ON TO THE SOVIET UNION BY THE BACK DOOR?
A. AS YOU KNOW, THE CCC HAS OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
'ONS OF BUTTER IN ITS STOCKS AND THEY'VE GOT TO BE MARKETED
'R STORED. GIVEN THE HIGH COST OF STORAGE, THE ADMINIS-
'RATION IS ACTIVELY EXPLORING VARIOUS MARKETING ALTERNATIVES
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'O THE QUESTION IS HOW AND WHERE TO DISPOSE OF THE BUTTER
AND IT'S UNDER INTERAGENCY REVIEW. THEY'RE BOTH DOMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS
'ORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE
SOLUTION WHICH BEST SERVES OUR INTERESTS.
'HERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, BUT THERE HAVE
'EEN NO DECISIONS TAKEN, AND I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT
'O GET INTO CHARACTERIZING THE POSITIONS OF ONE DEPARTMENT
OR ANOTHER. FRANKLY, I DO NOT HAVE THEM, BUT I DIDN'T
'SK FOR THEM BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT'S AN APPROPRIATE
THING TO DO.
Q. ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT A LOT OF REACITON AMONG THE
U.S. PUBLIC WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE REACTION IN THE
'ASHINGTON POST?
A. I THINK WE OUGHT TO WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE DECISIONS
ARE BEFORE WE TRY AND JUDGE REACTIONS.
Q. ON THAT QUESTION, SELLING BUTTER TO NEW ZEALAND IS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/GIS/IPS
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 4/4/84
NLS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S)
EO 12356 EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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A LITTLE BIT LIKE SELLING OIL TO SAUDIA ARABIA. WHY NEW ZEALAND OF ALL COUNTRIES?

A. WELL, AGAIN, I SAID THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS BUT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABOUT HOW THIS DISPOSAL OF THE BUTTER WILL BE HANDLED, AND I DON'T WANT TO PREJUDGE IT.

Q. WHY WAS NEW ZEALAND EVEN ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES CONSIDERED? IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CONSUME IT. THEY'RE GOING TO RESELL IT TO SOMEBODY

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ELSE, PROBABLY THE SOVIET UNION. WHY THEN DO YOU GO THROUGH WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PERSIFLAGE TO DISGUISE A SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NEW ZEALAND AND THE BUTTER IN THAT RESPECT AND SEE WHAT I CAN GET FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. WHILE YOU'RE LOOKING, WILL IT BE SOLD UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND LABEL OR THE AMERICAN LABEL?

A. AGAIN, THAT QUESTION DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DECISIONS. WHY NEW ZEALAND IS INVOLVED AT ALL IS A QUESTION WHICH I COULD LOOK INTO.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT STILL OPPOSE DISPOSAL OF THIS BUTTER TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU ON THAT. LET ME LOOK INTO THAT QUESTION AS WELL.

Q. ALAN, ON THE EVE OF THE POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN AWAITED FOR SO LONG, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON THAT GENERAL SUBJECT AT ALL?

A. NO. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THAT. CLARK

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